

THE BITTER END

News from Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron September 2015

A Unit of United States Power Squadrons ® District 16

Web Page: www.skagitsquadron.org

Email: ssboatschool@hotmail.com



CALENDAR

5-7 Sep, Pt Hudson Rendezvous with Everett and Seattle

10 Sep, Regular Meeting, Farmhouse

18-20 Sep, Lopez Island Rendezvous, Fish Bay

26 Sep, Day Cruise or Overnite, Annual Charter Party/BBQ Coronet Bay

Welcome to the first meeting of the fall. Still lots of good weather so hope to see you on the water. Please come join us. We actually have 3 boating activities this month!



Commander's Message Kari Randall-Secrest, N

Welcome back, Skagit Bay! Our summer break is over and it is time for our monthly meetings to start up again. I am so looking forward to hearing about all of your summer travels, boating or otherwise, and just plain catching up with everyone. Deanna, her mother Raeanna and I had a fantastic time on the recent Canada Cruise. We had 3 boats for the full cruise and a fourth, Richard Hunter aboard "Anam Cara" joined us during our first weekend of in Deer Harbor. As usual, we had lots of fun and laughs and great food throughout. There were even a couple of marathon games of "Uno" along the way. We did have to cut the cruise a bit short due to that massive summer storm, but Deanna and I and Bo hunkered down in our home port of La Conner and watched the blow. Incredible!

The Education Department, led by our new SEO Debbie Richey and our awesome group of instructors, has been hard at work lining up classes to begin this fall. Check out the Education Department's section of this newsletter for more information.

Next month is Fall Conference for District 16 and it will be held at the Coast Hotel in Bellevue during the weekend of October 23-24. The deadline for early bird registration is October 5th. You can

get a registration for online in the "Calendar" section of the district's website at www.uspd16.org.

As I mentioned, our monthly meetings will be starting up again which are primarily held on the second Thursday of each month. This month's meeting will be at held at the Farmhouse Restaurant on Thursday, September 10th. As usual, our social time begins at 6:00 pm, the meeting will start at 6:30, with dinner at 7:00 pm and program to follow. Come join us to catch up and share all of your summer adventures!



Education Department Debbie Richey, AP

I hope you all have a great summer boating! Did you get caught on the water during the windstorm? Did that make you think you might need a weather class? Cliff Mass, UW Weather Professor, has said it was the strongest summer storm ever in the Northwest. Our weather course can help you learn about the weather and how to forecast the weather. There is also a weather seminar available on-line: <http://www.usps.org/edonline/>. There will be webinar held on September 22 covering Thunderstorms and Severe Weather. The presenter will be a storm forecaster from the National Weather Service. You can sign up here: <http://www.usps.org/cgi-bin-nat/eddept/800/getregform.cgi?S-6213>. A webinar is seminar that is held over the internet. They do allow for ques-

tions and answers during the webinar and are a great to learn something new!

This fall we will be teaching a Piloting course at Skagit Valley Hospital. You will learn how read and use a chart, plot your course to avoid hazards and how to use your GPS for plotting those courses. Bob Miller will be teaching the course and it will star on November 16, 2015, with a break for the Christmas holiday. Please make sure to let Bob Miller (bobmillerwa@hotmail.com) know if you will be taking the class by October 26. That will ensure we will have the materials in time for the course to start.

If you are interested in some other courses, Everett Sail and Power Squadron (ESPS) will be teaching the classes listed below. Please contact Joellyn Jackson, joellynj@hotmail.com for more information.

Start date	Course	Instructor	Cost (m/nm)
7 Oct 2015	Seamanship	John Tarpley	\$60/\$90
Jan 2016	Jr. Navigation	Chuck Taylor	\$105/\$160
7 Jan 2016	Piloting	Renee Olson	\$80/\$115
mid-Jan 2016	Cruise Planning	Susan Tarpley	\$55/\$85
mid-Mar 2016	Adv. Piloting	Chris Brown	\$60/\$85

Piloting Course Starts in November 2015

When you are on the water and look at a paper chart:

- Can you locate your current position on the paper chart?
- Do you get a brain freeze when looking at all of the funny symbols and colors on the chart?
- Make funny “Uhh” sounds when a guest asks “what is that thing there?”
- Can’t visualize what the GPS chart plotter is telling you with the real world view out the pilot house window?
- Have no clue of what to do when the GPS screen goes black?

Well, you may need to take the USPS Piloting Course. I just looked at the squadron’s educational records and see that 28 members of Skagit Bay SPS have **not** completed the Piloting course. Here is your chance to brush up on your charting skills and to incorporate them with

the use of your electronic navigation tools. Also it a good way to stop saying “Uhh” a lot.

Piloting Course Description

Piloting 2011 is the first course in the sequence of USPS courses on navigation, covering the basics of coastal and inland navigation. This course focuses on navigation as it is done on recreational boats today and embraces GPS as a primary navigation tool while covering enough of traditional techniques so the student will be able to find his/her way even if their GPS fails. The course includes many in-class exercises, developing the student’s skills through hands-on practice and learning. Ten classes of two hours each normally are scheduled for presentation of this course. In addition the students have seven days to complete the open book exam. Topics covered include:

- Charts and their interpretation
- Navigation aids and how they point to safe water
- Plotting courses and determining direction and distance
- The mariner’s compass and converting between True and Magnetic
- Use of GPS – typical GPS displays and information they provide, setting up waypoints and routes, staying on a GPS route.
- Pre-planning safe courses and entering them into the GPS
- Monitoring progress and determining position by both GPS and traditional techniques such as bearings and dead reckoning
- The “Seaman’s Eye” – simple skills for checking that one is on course.

The Squadron is scheduling the ten week course to start in November and to finish by the end of January. The course will be offered to the public for a non-members price of \$175 and to USPS members for the discounted price of \$100 (\$125 for a couple sharing tools and the books).

Interested? Send an email message to bobmillerwa@hotmail.com and sign-up now!



Boating Activities
P/C Donna J. Mason, AP

Three Squadron boats, "Briongloid, Fish 'N Chicks, and Time Flies," just returned from a pleasant Canada Cruise August 21-28 with eight days of gorgeous weather. We spent the first weekend relaxing at Deer Harbor where we were joined by Richard Hunter on his 50 ft. "Anam Cara" (a book of Celtic wisdom) for the weekend. The three cruising boats arrived Sunday afternoon at scenic Poet's Cove in Bedwell Harbor, South Pender Island, B.C. after clearing Canada Customs. We enjoyed the resort area for two nights. We cruised to Ganges Marina at Ganges on Salt Spring Island, B.C. in time for the Tuesday market. Wednesday we met up with Sandy and George Johnson and Marlene Bellinger who arrived by car ferry. We all enjoyed a self-guided Art Studio and Farm Tour via our rental van and George's truck, enjoyed yummy dinners at Oyster Catcher and the Tree House along with a bountiful potluck dinner at our dock. Due to the wind storms we cut the cruise short after Salt Spring Harbor except for Dale Libby in Fish 'N Chicks who weathered the storm at Roche Harbor, filed his float plan with me, and returned home safely on Sunday. Paul and I on "Time Flies" were able to clear Customs both ways via on the water call-in. So convenient! We really enjoyed this cruise and are glad Kari, Deanna, Deanna's Mom Raeanna and dogs Bo and Mindy finally got to cross the border into Canada via boat. Dale enjoyed this cruise with us last year and returned for another go at it. See cruise photos in this newsletter.

Upcoming Activities:

September 4-7 Pt. Hudson Marina in Pt. Townsend, WA with the Everett and Seattle Squadrons. Contact is Annette Ferguson at the Everett Squadron, through D16 Website.

September 18-20 Fisherman Bay, Lopez Island. We do not have a host for this event; if you are interested contact me and I'll try to match up interested boaters. Make reservations on your own directly with the Lopez Islander Resort & Marina 360 468-2233. Website: www.lopezislander.com.

September 26 SBSPS Anniversary Cookout at Coronet Bay, Deception Pass. Cdr. Kari will be announcing plans for this event.

October 16-18 Stewart Island Remote Anchor Out. Mike and Sheryl Wytychak are hosting this weekend. Stay tuned for their announcement and plans for the weekend.

The following photos on the next couple pages are from the latest trip:



Briongloid" in Thatcher Pass



Kari photographed "Time Flies" in Thatcher Pass



Time Flies and Fish 'N Chicks in Deer Harbor



Happy Hour Friday at Deer Harbor



Richard Hunter wore port and starboard socks to the potluck.



Poet's Cove view from our boat slips, Bedwell Harbor, after clearing Canadian Customs.

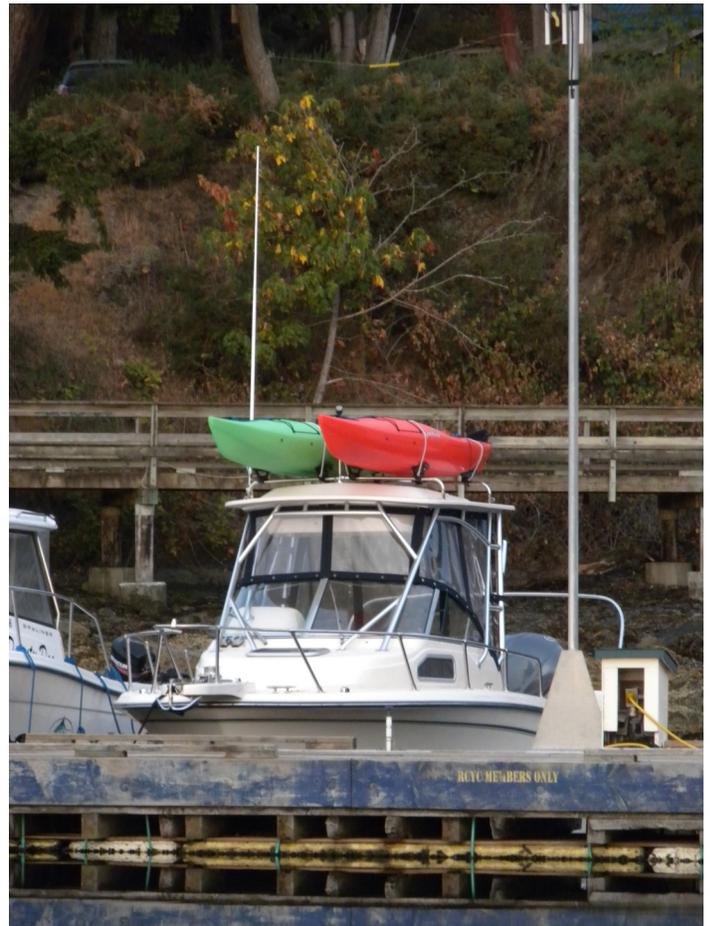
Saturday at the Deer Harbor barge. Paul, Richard Hunter, Kari, Reanna, Dale, Deanna.



Squadron's 3 boats at Ganges Marina, Salt Spring island, B.C.



Group dinner at Oyster Catcher in Ganges. L-R: Sandy Johnson, Marlene Bellinger, Paul Rosetter, Dale Libby, Raeanna (Deanna's Mom), Deanna and Kari Randall-Secret, George Johnson.



Port and Starboard color-coordinated kayakers atop boat in Ganges

Canadian Coast Guard Hovercraft leaves Ganges



Same gang at lunch on the Ganges docks



The Salt Spring Island Gang enjoying dinner at the Tree House Thursday evening.

The Pledge

I do solemnly pledge to: Abide by the bylaws of the United States Power Squadrons®; Promote high standards of navigation and seamanship; Maintain my boat and operate it legally; Render assistance whenever possible; and conduct myself in a manner that will add prestige, honor and respect to the United States Power Squadrons.®

	<p>Richard Anderson Dennis Baker Matt Castle Ruth Peterson Sherly Wytychak Michael Wytychak</p>
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~ General Meeting Information ~

Our General Meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Thursdays of each month (except July & August), at The Farmhouse Restaurant, corner of SR20 and La Conner-Whitney Road. Greetings and social time starts at 1800 with dinner at 1900. Meeting is normally held just before dinner. When a program is available it usually starts about 1930. The meeting is sometimes moved to another date or venue for special occasions, but that will

Ships Store

Did you know that our ship's store carries embroidered shirts, hats with our burgee on them, and burgees for your boat! Be sure to let me (drichey@rocketmail.com) know if you would like a new shirt or hat! Make sure to check out the National Ship Store also: <http://store.shopusps.org/>.

Help Wanted:

Do you have experience in retail? Like setting up merchandise displays? Do we have the job for you! We are in need of a person to manage our ship's store. It would only take a 2 hour commitment a month and bringing the merchandise to our monthly meetings. Talk to Debbie Richey/drichey@rocketmail.com or 360-387-1260

Bridge Officers		
Commander	Kari Randall-Secrest, N	360-387-1194
Executive Officer	Mark Richey, SN	360-387-1260
Education Officer	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Administrative Officer	Deanna Randall-Secrest, N	360-387-1194
Secretary	Sharon Knowles, AP	360 333-7808
Treasurer	Mike Connell, AP	425 327-3557
Executive Committee		
	Bob Miller, JN	360-588-9950
	Donna Mason, AP	360 595-1083
	Sandy Johnson, P	360-588-8125
	Kelly Libby, S	425-359-7078
Commander Department		
Chaplain	Ruth Peterson, SN	360-293-1888
Flag Lt.	Albert Miller, P	360-391-1897
Port Captain	Vacant	
Law Officer	Vacant	
Merit Marks	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
	Vacant	
	Vacant	
Executive Department		
Co-Op Charting	Lynn Stewart, P	360-424-1270
Liaison	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Public Relations	Deanna Randall-Secrest, N	360-387-1194
Asst Public Relations	Vacant	
Radio Technical	Vacant	
Safety	Bill Stewart, JN	360-424-1270
Vessel Exams	Rick Anderson, SN	360-757-6241
Education Department		
Assistant Education Officer	Vacant	
Local Board Public Boating	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Local Board Advanced Grds	Rick Anderson, SN	360-757-6241
Local Board Elect Courses	John Bellinger, SN	360-757-8091
	Vacant	
Administrative Department		
Boating Activities	Donna Mason, AP	360 595-1083
Galley	Vacant	
Greeting	Vacant	
Membership	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Operations Training	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Programs	Vacant	
Property Officer	Vacant	
Supply Officer	Vacant	
Telephone	Vacant	
Secretary's Department		
Editor "Bitter End"	Mark Richey, SN	425-876-6274
Historian	Lynn Stewart, P	360-424-1270
Roster	Bob Miller, JN	360-588-9950
Scrapbook	Vacant	
Webmaster	Kari Randall-Secrest, N	360-387-1194
Auditing Committee		
1 Yr Chair	Sharon Knowles, AP	360 333-7808
2 Yrs.	Bob Miller, JN	360-588-9950
3 Yrs.	Judy Bennett, S	
Nominating Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	Kelly Libby, S	425-359-7078
2 Yrs.	Jean Miller, N	360-588-9950
3 Yrs.	Vacant	
Rules Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	Bill Stewart, JN	360-424-1270
2 Yrs.	John Bellinger, SN	360-757-8091
3 Yrs.	Ruth Peterson, SN	360-293-1888

Please note the vacancies. Also, the positions in red are unknown if they are correct. Contact editor or committee chair with corrections. We also need the class student count for the chart.